

File #

THE ALDEN LIBRARY PROJECT
Questions and Answers
 Provided by the Library Trustees

Q. What will the Alden Library Project cost?

The costs are as follows:

Construction	\$4,800,000
Architect, permits, tests, financing, etc.	700,000
Interior furnishings	<u>825,000</u>
Total project cost	<u>\$6,325,000</u>

Q. How will it be paid for?

Funding is expected from these sources:

Public grants	\$2,385,000
Private gifts	940,000
Town appropriation	<u>3,000,000</u>
	<u>\$6,325,000</u>

Q. How much will it cost the average homeowner?

The debt for this capital project will be paid within the town's budget -- IT WILL NOT RAISE TAXES and IT WILL NOT REQUIRE AN OVERRIDE. The debt payments for Chandler School are ending in the next year, and the library debt will fit into this category of the town's budget.

Q. How will the Alden Library Project affect the school or other town departments' budgets?

The debt payments for the new library will remain on the capital investment side of the town's budget and will not invade the operating expenses at all.

The library's operating costs are less than 1.5 percent of the town budget. Because of the superior layout and efficiency of the new library's design, staff costs are not expected to rise in the new building. With vastly more efficient utility systems, energy costs are expected to rise \$40,000. Staff costs may rise with use -- Plymouth's circulation quadrupled in the first two years, for example. To meet this rise, Plymouth added 3 part-time librarians. We are adding two part-time librarians this year at a cost of \$15,000.

Q. What will happen if I just vote no or don't vote at all at

Town Meeting?

If the Town Meeting vote on March 11 does not garner a two-thirds majority in favor of the new library at Alden, the library will not be eligible for a \$2.1 million state grant to Duxbury. Without this vote, the project will end.

This would require the town to make the current library handicapped-accessible immediately. The cost for this is about \$1.8 million and would necessitate the removal of about half the existing stacks and the addition of new ramps, bathrooms and elevator. The library, already cramped, would be made smaller. There would be no state grant money for this option -- the Board of Library Commissioners (which administers the grants) has said it would not approve funding of expansion at the current library.

Q. Do the schools need Upper Alden?

No, the School Committee has stated categorically that it does not need the Upper Alden building. Should enrollment rise beyond existing capacity, school officials have access to 28 classrooms at Lower Alden -- enough to accommodate 500 children.

In the distant future, if the schools must provide for even more than this 500, the Alden building would be in no condition to use. As it is, the School Committee has stated that Upper Alden is no longer feasible to use for educational purposes.

The School Committee has unanimously endorsed the conversion of Upper Alden into a new library.

Q. What will happen to the current library on St. George Street after the move to Upper Alden?

The current library will remain in municipal use and will be occupied by the library throughout construction at Alden. The new library is expected to open by late 1996.

After this time, a variety of functions have been proposed for the old library building: an art gallery or historical museum; a conference site for businesses, educational groups or private groups; a satellite site of a state college (Plymouth's old main library now houses Quincy Junior College, for example;) a base for the proposed teen center or activities of the Council on Aging; a community center; auxiliary space for educational or municipal offices; or a combination of these functions.

A comprehensive examination of these alternatives will take place once the future of the Alden Library Project is confirmed.